



George Washington Chapter Newsletter in Alexandria, Virginia

Volume 26, Issue 2

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February 2024



Rev. Peter Muhlenberg Commemoration

Photo by **Tom Roth**

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President's Corner

Compatriots,

GREETINGS.

An unusually mild, late-January Saturday in the Shenandoah Valley found several George Washington Chapter members paying their respects to [Peter Muhlenberg](#) in Woodstock, Va. Muhlenberg's story is a reminder of how choices made by individuals across the colonies led to the eventual, and anything but inevitable, independence of our nation. Rev. Muhlenberg traded his clerical robes for the uniform of a Continental officer (in quite dramatic fashion, legend has it) in 1776, and after participating in many critical battles in the Revolutionary War, he found himself in command of the brigade that notably included Alexander Hamilton's battalion, which stormed Redoubt Number 10 at Yorktown.



Earlier in January, at our first chapter meeting of 2024, we were treated to a very enjoyable and educational presentation about the Battle of Princeton, as well as the efforts to preserve the Princeton battlefield and many others, by Isaac Makos of the American Battlefield Trust. We hope you'll join us on March 9 at the Mount Vernon Country Club for our next meeting. David Heiby, the Superintendent of Alexandria's Presbyterian Cemetery, will share some of the more interesting, and lesser known, stories of Alexandria's history and the lives and deaths of her citizens.

In the meantime, there are plenty of activities to help pass the winter days. Please consider joining us at the Virginia Society SAR Annual Meeting in Richmond, Va., Feb. 9-10. Virtual workshops covering everything from America 250 to Veterans Affairs are already underway, and you can view recordings of these [workshops](#) on the state's website. These are a great way to explore the many service opportunities available to you as a member of the SAR.

Later in February, we're looking forward to several events centered around our namesake's birthday celebration. Feb. 19 brings a wreath laying at the Tomb of the Unknown Revolutionary War Soldier at the Old Presbyterian Meeting House in Alexandria, followed by the George Washington Birthday Parade in Old Town. Later that week on Feb. 22, we'll lay a wreath at Gen. Washington's tomb at Mount Vernon. Be sure to log into [our website](#) as a member and check the Events page for event announcements and updates. Be sure to check the [virginiasar.org](#) website Calendar as well for additional activities planned throughout the region.

Fraternally,

Scott Walker

President

George Washington Chapter



RIGHT: *Paying my respects to Rev. Peter Muhlenberg: Clergyman, Soldier, and Statesman, as his monument in Woodstock, Va. reads. Read more about the event on page 4.*



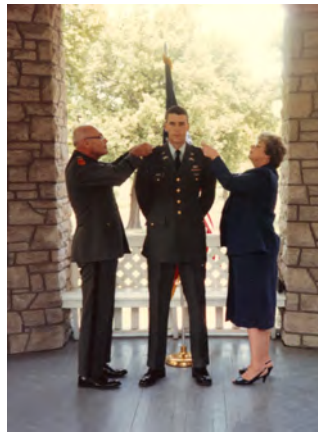
And please welcome new members...

JUSTIN NATHANIEL CHERRY grew up in Butler, Pa., a town not too far from where George Washington made his 1753 journey to deliver a message to the French at Fort Le boeuf. Justin and his family have been involved with living history for over 35 years, participating in both French and Indian and American Revolutionary War events. Justin and his loving wife Michaela have a daughter, Alexandra, 6, and they love traveling the world and experiencing historic and beautiful places. They reside near Charleston, SC.

Justin is the chef and owner of Half Crown Bakehouse, founded in 2018, a mobile 18th century clay oven that specializes in colonial foodways. He was a 2018-2019 research fellow at the Fred W. Smith National Library for the Study of George Washington, and he is a regular demonstrator and lecturer at historic sites as well as an independent research consultant on food history. He is currently the Baker in Residence at George Washington's Mount Vernon, doing monthly baking programs. Part of the programming includes studying the regionality of grains during the 18th century, along with histories of bakers working in populated cities of the time and baking for the military during the American Revolution. Justin sells his baked goods up and down the East Coast at historic sites and events.

For as long as Justin can remember, his mother has been tracking down ancestors, tracing shades of gravestone inscriptions on paper, and looking over hillsides of cemeteries for broken, illegible stones. So it was only natural for Justin to research his ancestors and apply for membership in the SAR. His mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother were all members of the DAR.

Justin's 6th-great-grandfather Jeremiah Sutton was born in Somerset, NJ in 1738 and served in the New Jersey militia company of Capt. Cornelius Nieuirk, Benjamin Holmes's Battalion, Salem County, NJ, in 1778. Jeremiah was also a member and caretaker of the Presbyterian Church in Basking Ridge, NJ. After the Revolution he settled in Butler County, Pa., where he died in late 1814.



Carl Knotts has his 2nd Lt. bars pinned on by his parents at Fort Leavenworth, Kan. in 1988. His father administered the oath of office.



Justin Cherry works the oven as Baker in Residence at Mount Vernon.



CARL DANIEL KNOTTS was born in Heidelberg, Germany in 1963 to Noel and Jacqueline Knotts while Noel was serving overseas as a career Army officer. As a dependent, Carl lived overseas in the Netherlands, Germany, and South Korea and eventually graduated from high school in Ocala, Fla. in 1981. Carl enlisted in the Iowa National Guard in 1982 and later served with the Kansas National Guard. He earned his bachelor's degree and U.S. Army commission at Missouri Western State College (now University).

Carl served in the Cavalry and later the Ordnance Corps in both South Korea and Germany with the 2nd Infantry and 3rd Infantry divisions. He married Hye Suk Kim in 1997 and they had a son, Scout, in 1999. While serving at the Pentagon as a Joint Staff intern, Carl earned his master's degree from the George Washington University. He commanded at the battalion level in both Germany and Iraq with the 172nd Infantry Brigade. Upon retirement from the Army in 2011, Carl joined the federal government as a Department of Defense civilian.

While growing up, Carl was introduced to genealogy by his Aunt Jane, who was a DAR member. Always fascinated with the lineage and heraldry of his family, he would occasionally assist his father in SAR events while on leave. After his father's passing last May and finally settling down in Fairfax County, Carl decided to join the SAR and follow the proud tradition of his father. Carl enjoys skiing, shooting, motorcycling, and baseball. He particularly enjoys watching his son play baseball.

Carl's patriot ancestor was James Knott, born in 1750 in Wales and took the oath of allegiance in Anson County, NC in 1778, along with likely service in the NC militia. James Knott passed away around 1836 in Chesterfield District, SC.





Peter Muhlenberg Commemoration

Shenandoah County Courthouse, Woodstock, Va., Jan. 20, 2024 (Photos by Tom Roth)

LAST MONTH the Col. James Wood II Chapter of the Virginia Society SAR held a ceremony at the county courthouse in Woodstock, Va. commemorating Rev. Peter Muhlenberg's final sermon before serving as a soldier in the Revolutionary War. Several members of the George Washington Chapter participated.

An ordained Anglican pastor, Johann Peter Gabriel Muhlenberg was minister to a Lutheran congregation in Woodstock. After his sermon on Jan. 21, 1776, he set aside the Geneva Gown for the uniform of Colonel of the 8th Virginia Regiment. He ended the war as a brevet major general. He later returned to Pennsylvania, where he served as vice-president (that is, lieutenant governor) under Pennsylvania President Benjamin Franklin. He was later elected to the first U.S. Congress, in which his brother Frederick was elected the first Speaker of the House.

Virginia Society SAR President Ernie Coggins brought greetings from the Virginia Society. Chapter President Scott Walker attended and presented a wreath on behalf of the George Washington Chapter. Chapter Chaplain Paul McComb participated in the Color Guard and carried the flag of the 8th Virginia Regiment. Past Chapter President and current Virginia Society SAR Historian Tom Roth also attended, in militia attire, and helped record the event for posterity.



LEFT: Muhlenberg as a colonel of Virginia militia during the Revolutionary War.

BELOW: From left to right, Chapter Chap. Paul McComb, Va. Society SAR Pres. Ernie Coggins, Chapter Pres. Scott Walker, and Va. Society SAR Historian Tom Roth.



January Chapter Meeting

Montebello Condominiums, Jan. 13, 2024 (Photos by Tom Roth)



HIGHLIGHTS of last month's meeting include the initiation of two new members, Justin Cherry and Carl Knotts ([above left](#), with Chapter President Scott Walker and Chapter Secretary Jaymie Cook; see page 3 for more information about both new members) and guest speaker Isaac Makos ([above right](#)), Interpretive Supervisor at Mount Vernon and a Revolution Fellow with the American Battlefield Trust. Compatriot Jamie Callender ([below, upper left](#)) received the Gold Roger Sherman Medal for his work on the Patriot Research System (PRS), Compatriot Frank Weiss ([below, lower left](#)) received the Dr. James Craik Chapter Medal for supporting the grave-marking program, and Compatriot Martin Johnson ([below right](#)), on behalf of Compatriot Carl Anderson, received a Certificate of Commendation from past chapter president and current Graves Registration & Marking Committee Chairman Paul Walden for exemplary patriotism in the display of the U.S. flag.



Remembering Compatriot Pete Farley

(From the **DISPATCH**, *Voice of the Virginia Sons of the American Revolution*)

GEORGE WASHINGTON CHAPTER member Pete Farley lost his battle with cancer in Williamsburg, Virginia last month at the age of 80 years old. He was inducted into the Chapter in November 2017 and two months later he was the Chapter Newsletter Editor. Pete's career and personal interests going back to high school focused upon printing. He entered a 4-year apprenticeship program through The International Typographical Union, becoming a skilled Journeyman Printer. After employment in various printing shops and newspapers in West Virginia and Virginia, he joined the print department at The Wall Street Journal in Silver Spring, Maryland in 1973 just as the days of hot metal typography were coming to an end due to the arrival of the computer era.

Eventually, he started his own business as a consultant of Graphics and Printing and spent the last fifteen years of his career at the Defense Logistics Agency at Fort Belvoir, Virginia.

From early childhood, Pete was an avid collector of baseball cards (and was one of the fortunate whose mother did not toss out his collection). His collection of cards and baseball memorabilia continued his entire life. He was a baseball super-fan and particularly loved the Yankees of the 1950s-60s.

Pete maintained an avid interest in both history and ancestry. Over the years he was a devoted supporter of organizations such as The Friends of Mount Vernon, The Mosby Heritage Area Association, Civil War Trust, National Baseball Hall of Fame and the Society of American Baseball Research.

Pete was honored by Virginia SAR as the 2022 Newsletter Editor of the Year. He is survived by his devoted wife of 40 years, Carol Simpson Farley; son, Jeffrey C. Farley (Paula) of Virginia Beach, VA; daughter, Nanette Farley Lucas, of Tallahassee, FL; stepsons, John Reedy (Kari) of Ayden, NC, and Matthew Reedy (Julie) of Midlothian, VA; and seven grandchildren.



ABOVE LEFT: *Compatriot Pete Farley, 1943 - 2023 (photo courtesy of his family).*

BELOW LEFT: *Elliot Cook and Carol Farley, Pete's widow, in her Williamsburg, Va. home, Feb. 3, 2024.*

RIGHT: *Chapter Secretary Jaymie Cook presents Pete's widow Carol a Certificate in Memory of her late husband.*





Chapter President Scott Walker, left, and his father Jimmy Walker, right, a longtime member of the George Washington Chapter. See more photos on Tom Roth's Flickr page at <https://www.flickr.com/photos/33987981@N05>.



February through the years with George Washington

- 1731/32** on the 11th: Birth of Washington (old-style calendar)
- 1732** on the 22nd: Birth of Washington (new-style calendar)
- 1789** on the 4th: Electoral College unanimously elects Washington first president
- 1792** on the 20th: Washington signs legislation creating U.S. Post Office

*George Washington's Birthday is observed this year on **Monday, February 19.***

By signing the Declaration of Independence, the fifty-six Americans pledged their lives, fortunes, and sacred honor. Nine died of wounds during the Revolutionary War. Five were captured or imprisoned. Wives and children were jailed, mistreated, or left penniless. Twelve signers' houses were burned to the ground. No signer defected. Their honor, like their nation remained intact.



Upcoming Events

Feb. 9-10: Starting Saturday, 11 a.m.

Virginia Society SAR Annual Meeting

Online workshops will be held Jan. 22 - Feb. 2

Omni Richmond Hotel

100 South 12th St., Richmond, VA 23219

See this year's Agenda at

<https://vssar.memberclicks.net/2024-annual-meeting-agenda>

Feb. 9: Friday, 11 a.m. to Noon

Grave Marking Ceremony

Shockoe Hill Cemetery

320 Hospital St., Richmond, VA 23219

Feb. 14 - March 2

Virginia History Day Judging Contest

March 2, 8 a.m. District V Contest at West Springfield High School

6100 Rolling Road, West Springfield, VA 22152

See this year's Judge registration and training at

<https://gwsar.org/resources/Documents/2024/VHD2024DistVJudging.pdf>

See new National Youth Protection Training program REQUIREMENT at

<https://www.sar.org/courses/youth-protection-training/>

Feb. 15: Thursday, 6:30 to 8 p.m.

Crossing of the Dan Prelude Event 1

Halifax County South Boston Museum

1540 Wilborn Ave., South Boston, VA

Feb. 16: Friday, 1 to 5 p.m.

Crossing of the Dan Prelude Event 2

Halifax County War Memorial

8 Main St., Halifax, VA (next to the courthouse)

Feb. 17: Saturday, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Crossing of the Dan Commemoration

700 Bruce St., South Boston, VA

Feb. 19: Monday, 11 a.m.

Commemoration at the Tomb of the Unknown Revolutionary War Soldier

Old Presbyterian Meeting House

323 S. Fairfax St., Alexandria, VA 22314

Feb. 19: Monday, Muster 11:30 a.m. to Noon George Washington Birthday Parade

Old Town Alexandria

The Jack Evans Chapter Medal will be available for first-time participants.

Feb. 22: Thursday, 9 to 9:30 a.m.

George Washington's 292nd Birthday Wreath Laying

*Tomb of George and Martha Washington, Mount Vernon
A shuttle bus will provide transportation from the front of the Mount Vernon Inn restaurant to the Tomb. Please arrive early.*

Feb 24: Saturday, 11 a.m.

258th Commemoration of the Leedstown Resolutions

Ingleside Winery

5872 Leedstown Road, Oak Grove, VA 22443

Fireside chat between brothers Richard Henry Lee and Francis Lightfoot Lee about the rebellion after the French and Indian War in 1763.

March 9: Saturday, 11:30 a.m.

March Chapter Meeting

Mount Vernon Country Club

5111 Old Mill Road, Alexandria, VA 22309

Guest speaker will be David Heiby, board member at Lee-Fendall House & Alexandria Historical Society, public historian and authority on Alexandria's cemeteries.

March 10: Sunday, 2 to 3 p.m.

Commemoration of Col. William Grayson

Grayson Family Vault

2338 West Longview Dr., Woodbridge, VA 22191

March 15: Friday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Commemoration of the Battle of Guilford Courthouse

Guilford Courthouse

2332 New Garden Road, Greensboro, NC 27410

March 16: Saturday, 1 p.m.

Grave Marking Ceremonies

Presbyterian Cemetery at the Wilkes Street Complex

Alexandria, VA 22314

The George Washington and Fairfax Resolves chapters will conduct joint grave marker dedication and grave marking ceremonies honoring Fairfax Resolves signer John Adams and Rev War Patriots David Black and John Dundas. The Virginia Society SAR Color Guard is scheduled to participate.



Chaplain's Corner

COMPATRIOTS, Valentine's Day, also called Saint Valentine's Day or the Feast of Saint Valentine, is celebrated annually on Feb. 14. According to Wikipedia, it originated as a Christian feast day honoring one or two early Christian martyrs named Saint Valentine and, through later folk traditions, has become a significant cultural, religious, and commercial celebration of romance and love in many regions of the world. In the United States, about 190 million Valentine's Day cards are sent each year, not including the hundreds of millions of cards school children exchange.

A Valentine's Day Prayer (credit goes to hydeparkumc.org):

Lord, in your very being we discover the essence of true love. Empower me today to be a person of deeper love, encompassing heart, soul, mind, and strength, both for you and for those around me.

Teach me to love those dearest to me, those with whom I am most vulnerable and most guarded. Help us to rebuild trust and authenticity with each other.

Grant me deeper friendships with those who can help me be the best version of myself. May they help me be accountable for my actions, offer me godly advice, and speak the truth to me without judgment.

Sharpen my awareness of those who feel unloved and unlovable. Strengthen my resolve to be an agent of hospitality to the lonely, of comfort for the frightened, and mercy for the hurting.

Open my heart to a greater sense of your love for me. A love that is tenacious, patient, and unconditional. Remove the barriers that I have built that block the free flow of your love in my life. Work through my doubt, do not be deceived by my pride, and heal me of my guilt and shame.

For God & Country,

Paul McComb,
Chaplain



"A citizen, first in war, first in peace, and first in the hearts of his countrymen."

*Henry "Light Horse Harry" Lee,
December 26, 1799.*

President	Scott Walker: 703-216-4798
Vice President	Scot Bryant: 703-922-4431
Treasurer	Jonathan Coles: 570-449-8197
Secretary	Jaymie Cook: 202-570-2008
Registrar	Richard Sherman: 301-654-6319

The George Washington Chapter was chartered in its present form April 2, 1954. With over 250 members, it is Virginia's largest SAR chapter.

Meetings customarily are held at 11:30 a.m. on the second Saturday of each month (June, July & August excepted).

Immediate Past President:

Rand Pixa: 703-622-7001

Ride Share: Members in need of a ride to a Chapter meeting or a Chapter-sponsored event may contact the Amenities Committee Chairman, Paul McComb, at pmccomb98@gmail.com or 202-403-4463.

Editor: Eric Atkisson. Please send submissions and comments to Secretary Jaymie Cook at vasargwsecretary@gmail.com.